



IDE TODAY

Iowa District East - LCMS

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DISTRICT UPDATES



Pastor Calls

Accepted	Rev. Andrew Richard, North Liberty	Mt. Hope - Casper, WY
	Rev. John Preus, Clinton	Trinity Lutheran - Cheyenne, WY
	Rev. Brian Licht - Carroll, IA	Risen Christ, Davenport
Pending	Rev. Caleb Schewe, SD	St. John Monticello
Declined		

Calling Congregations

Congregation

Charles City, New Hope
Davenport, Risen Christ
DeWitt, Grace
Monticello, St. John
Riceville, St. Peter
State Center, Trinity
Waverly, St. Paul

Vacancy Pastor

Clarke Frederick (vacancy pastor)
David Jacob (vacancy pastor)
Anthony Dodgers (vacancy pastor)
Dale Glawatz (vacancy pastor)
Michael Parris (vacancy pastor)
Mark Heilman, IDW (vacancy pastor)
David Hasselbrook (vacancy pastor)

DCE/School/Teacher Calls

Vacancies	Bethany, Cedar Rapids	DCE
Accepted		
Pending	Steve Stortz, Christ - Norfolk, NE	St. Paul, Latimer - Principal
	Charlene Stortz, Christ - Norfolk, NE	St. Paul, Latimer - Teacher
Declined	Laura Hillman, Jacksonville, FL	Central, Newhall - Music

About the Cover

The final group photo of the IDE Pastors' Wives Retreat.



Iowa District East - LCMS



@lcmside

Calendar of Events

October

1-2 Fall Pastors' Conference
5-6 Confirmation Retreat
12-13 Pastors' Wives' Retreat
30 Board of Directors Meeting

November

16-17 Sr. High Retreat
22-23 Thanksgiving Holiday,
District office closed.

President's Piece for Peace - He is Risen

I am an avid fan of illusionist shows. It fascinates me how they are able to do what is in reality not possible. From making rabbits come from a hat to birds multiplying out of a handkerchief and more I am always captivated by their ability to redirect my attention so as to pull off the illusion without my notice. The real show stopper is the disappearance of the assistant to the illusionist. I full size person steps behind a curtain or inside a box and within a matter of a few seconds the curtain is dropped or the box opened and each are empty. No one inside as was thought before.

A few years ago I had the advantage of sitting in a seat at one of these shows that gave me a great angle to the stage. I thought for sure I would see how the hidden person escaped or was covered up to be taken out of our line of sight. I watched closely and made every effort not to be distracted by any stage hand antics. Non-the-less, no secrets were revealed and I was yet left amazed at the proposition that a human could be made to disappear right before my eyes. I will never forget one show in particular where the illusionist on stage disappeared behind a puff of smoke that cleared in but a few seconds. He was gone and everyone in the audience was wondering where he went. There was an empty seat right in front of me the entire show. Yep, all of a sudden he was sitting in that seat. My eye was once again fooled. Smoke and mirrors, boxes and curtains, all tricks of the trade to make someone believe that which did not or could not happen.

This Easter morning we will assemble under the blessed greeting of "He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!" This is the Church's confession of what no eye had seen, and what only faith can apprehend. Jesus who once was dead has risen from the grave and left it empty. There was no stage, no audience who paid a price for a ticket to be fooled, no smoke and mirrors, no curtains or boxes with hiding spaces. There was only a grave yard where Jesus had been placed

the Friday previous. Saddened hearts wished to attend his body with respectful preparation for his internment. Guards were placed at the sight so as to prevent anyone from taking His body away and making some outlandish claim like He had risen from the dead since He prophesied He would.



REV DR BRIAN S SAUNDERS

That very morning the earth shook, the guards fell with their faces to the ground. Angels appeared and sat upon the stone with defiance against death. Men and women all found their way to the cemetery only to be informed that the most amazing act on earth had taken place. No tricks, no miss directions, no fancy decorations so as to attract the eye from what is really happening. The impossible? A dead man now alive? Can't be says the pagan heart and mind. Myth and fables replies the Pharisees. Grave robbers is the conclusion of Pilate.

***This is God's truth
recorded and
given to us in the
Precious Word.***

Yet the message was clear and simple from the Angels. "He is not here. He has risen, just as He said." This was no show, no Hollywood act, or performance for the fool. This is God in the flesh whom death could not hold. This is the prophecy of Holy Scripture when foretold of the sending of the Messiah. The Son of God in the flesh would suffer the pangs of the Father's wrath upon the sin of the world as Mt. Calvary was the location for redemption. The resurrection from the dead is proof the Father accepted the Son's payment on our behalf. As such He now lives and rules from all eternity. His rule is our promise that death does not have the final say. His victory over sin and death is our gift in Holy Baptism. We are in His reign of victory, we are the recipients of His grace which brings us comfort and strength. This is no show. It is no illusion. This is God's truth recorded and given to us in the Precious Word. Together we assemble, all around the world and rejoice. "He is Risen. He is Risen Indeed. Alleluia!"

Rev. Dr. Brian Saunders is the President of Iowa District East and Assistant Pastor of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Cedar Falls, IA.

Shadows of God's Love

I recently attended the funeral service of Mary Lou Block at Peace Lutheran Church in Oelwein. We are blessed in that our Lutheran churches are rich in imagery. As I sat gazing upon the cross I could not help but see the shadow of a heart which engulfed the cross. As I heard Law and Gospel proclaimed and the death and resurrection of Christ Jesus put forth I kept looking up at the cross. At the end of the service I took the picture.



Years ago in a Bible Class we were talking about the 23rd Psalm and the verse: **“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death.”** Irene Gonitzke made the comment: “If there is a shadow it means that there must be a light.” Irene was making the connection to Christ Jesus as being the “light” of the world. We also are

blessed to have the deep connections in imagery throughout God's Word.

John wrote: **“By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation (payment) for our sins.”** | John 4:9-10. Christ Jesus upon the cross shows us God's love come in human flesh to be the propitiation for our sins.

Why did Jesus have to come? We, by nature, do not love God but rather we love ourselves. By nature, we do not abhor sin but we live in it. By nature we think we are very

good people in and of ourselves. We have a hard time admitting and confessing our sins. What we deserve because of our sins is eternal damnation in hell. Isaiah tells us: **“For all of us have become like one who is unclean, And all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment; And all of us wither like a leaf, And our iniquities like the wind, take us away.”** Isaiah 64:6.

Christ Jesus came as the “propitiation” or appeasement for our sins. Our sins were set aside and placed upon another, namely, Christ Jesus, who is the spotless Lamb of God, who becomes sin for us. This was the payment that only Christ Jesus could make and He has made it for all people and for all sins. Jesus died and rose for our justification.

Instead of hell, the believer receives heaven. Instead of the wrath of God which

Christ Jesus undertook for us we receive His grace and mercy. Our sins are forgiven and the gift of eternal life is ours. That has been bestowed upon us in the water and Word of our baptism. We continue to receive it in the Holy Absolution and the Lord's Supper where our sins are forgiven and our faith is strengthened so that we can serve our neighbor with our works. All of that is possible because Christ Jesus shines brightly from the shadow of death!

Rev. Dr. Dean F. Rothchild is Assistant to the President and Director of the Proclaiming Christ Jesus Campaign.



Capital Campaign Update

As of August 7, 2018

Gifts received to date

\$785,624

Promised in the next 1-6 years

\$21,350

TOTAL TO DATE

\$806,974

Proclaiming Christ Jesus!
Luke 24:46-47

We also are blessed to have the deep connections in imagery throughout God's Word.

Hang On to the Easter Joy

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade, kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. 1 Peter 1:3-6



JAN DOELLINGER

Jan Doellinger serves IDE as the Assistant to the President for Schools.

It was obvious that eight-year-old Stephen's mental retardation was becoming even more severe. His Sunday school teacher did her best to include Stephen in the classroom activities and to avoid situations which might prompt his classmates to make fun of him.

In April, she gave each of the eight children in the class an empty L'eggs pantyhose container (plastic egg)

and instructed them to place inside the container an object that represented new life in spring. Fearing that Stephen might not have caught on, and not wanting to embarrass him, the teacher had the children place all the containers on the desk so that she could open them.

The first had a tiny flower in it. "What a lovely sign of new life," said the teacher. One of the students couldn't help but erupt, "I brought that one!"

Next came a rock. The teacher assumed this must be Stephen's, since rocks don't symbolize new life. But Billy shouted that his rock had moss on it, and moss represented new life. "Very good, Billy," agreed the teacher.

A butterfly flew from the third container and another child bragged that her choice was the best of all.

The fourth container was empty. This must be Stephen's, thought the teacher, quickly reaching for a different one.

"Teacher, please don't skip mine," interrupted Stephen.

"But it's empty, Stephen." said the teacher gently.

"That's right," said Stephen. "The tomb was empty, and that represents new life for everyone."

Later that summer, Stephen's condition worsened and he died. At his funeral on his casket, mourners found eight L'eggs pantyhose containers—one from each of his classmates—and all of them empty.

Perhaps you have read this story about Stephen and the egg before. Stephen had it right. The empty egg does represent new life for everyone who believes that Jesus is the risen Christ, their Lord and Savior. When the lid on Stephen's casket was shut, the Easter victory for him was not over. It was just getting started!

Easter is not a one day event. Satan smiles when we treat Easter as a one-day event and then pack away its message along with the decorations and Easter baskets. Easter's message impacts our daily lives and our eternity. Easter empowers us to live each new day in hope and joy, no matter what sorrows or disappointments we face.

In 1 Peter 1:3-6, Peter was writing to believers who were suffering "*grief in all kinds of trials.*" These Christians were under tremendous pressure to renounce their faith in Jesus. When they faced the harsh reality of imprisonment and persecution, many were tempted to conclude that God had abandoned them and their faith in Jesus was worthless. Peter lifted their eyes beyond the present moments of despair and doubt to the blessings they enjoyed through faith. These blessing were tied to the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Suffering is temporary. Grief comes to an end. God had given them "*new birth into a living hope.*" In Jesus, they possessed "*an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.*" Peter pointed to the empty tomb and proclaimed here is where you find hope and your reason for joy - "*kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.*"

April 21, 2019 isn't just another day on the calendar. The empty tomb is a message we get to celebrate in our Lutheran schools every day. How can we model for our students we live in hope on May 7, July 29, and October 13 and all the other days on the calendar? Here are several reminders. One way is spending time in God's Word. Your students won't be spiritually healthy if you're not spiritually healthy. Continued on pg. 6...

IDE Schools Continued...

“Because I live, you also will live (John 14:19). Don’t forget to remember your baptism! “We were therefore buried with Jesus, through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life” (Romans 6:4). Receive Christ’s body and blood in the Sacrament for the forgiveness of your sins and assurance of God’s love for you. Be encouraged by your colleagues, your brothers and sisters in Christ, as you celebrate Easter joy in your school, classrooms, and worship.

Though the Easter lilies wither and the special music dies away, may the message of Easter continue to bring joy to you forgiven and redeemed colleagues each new day.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

JAN DOELLINGER

Jan Doellinger serves IDE as the Assistant to the President for Schools.

Schools Marketing & Enrollment Summit



IDE was host to a Marketing Summit on March 22. Over 60 Lutheran preschool and elementary school directors, principals, pastors, Board members, and parents from Iowa East, Iowa West, Wisconsin, and Nebraska were in attendance. The day long event, held at Valley Lutheran School in Cedar Falls, was led by Jim McKenzie, Headmaster of a Christian school in Gainesville, FL. Some of the topics discussed were clarifying your vision and mission, marketing effectively on digital platforms, thinking through the story you tell, and taking advantage of word-of-mouth marketing. The positive learning experience that took place during the Summit will continue in the days ahead and will have an impact on our Lutheran preschools, elementary schools, and high school in the years ahead.

2018 Fall Pastors' Conference



Dr. Jeff Gibbs (pictured above) of Concorida Seminary was the presenter for the 2018 Fall Pastors' Conference. The conference was held at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca on October 1-2, 2018. His presentation focused on eschatology in the book of Matthew. President Saunders (pictured right) delivers his President's Report.



Pastors' Wives Retreat



The Pastors Wives' retreat was held at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca on October 12-13. More than 40 attended to listen to writer, author and pastor's wife Katie Schuermann. Katie's presentation was titled, *The Joy of Being a Pastor's Wife*. The 2019 Pastors' Wives retreat is scheduled for November 1-2.

IDE Youth Events



The IDE Confirmation Retreat took place October 5-6 at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca. The topic was *Promises, Promises: Why the Lord's Prayer is a Gift* and was led by Pastor Troy Peperkorn from St. John Lutheran Church in Reinbeck. More than 30 people for groups from Mt. Vernon, Lowden, Independence, Cedar Rapids, and Hiawatha were in attendance.



The IDE Sr. High Retreat was held November 16-17 at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca. Pastor John Wegener from College Hill Lutheran Church was this year's presenter. The topic was *War of the Worldviews: What to Expect on the College Campus*. About 25 were in attendance with groups from Hiawatha, Eldridge, Charlotte, and Westgate. Snow fell and the retreat was capped off with a snowman competition!



Zion, Hiawatha



On November 15, 2018 Pastor Krueger, Pastor of Zion Lutheran Church, Hiawatha came to the home of Rev. Dr. Gary & Marjorie Arp to serve them Holy Communion, others present were their daughter Christy Mayer, Rev. Daniel Johnson, Retired Assistant Pastor at Zion, and Lauren White, DCE Intern at Zion.

It was also the day of Rev. Dr. Gary Arp's 84th Birthday. Those present to help Dr. Arp Celebrate were Pam Krog, Secretary at IDE; Rev. Daniel Krueger, Rev. Daniel Johnson, Lauren White, Rev. & Mrs Gilbert Meseke, Mr. & Mrs. Jim Biederman, members of Zion Lutheran Church, Hiawatha.



On Nov 10th, 2018 (Martin Luther's Birthday) Zion Youth Group and their leaders gathered at the home of Rev. Dr. Gary & Marjorie Arp for a Servant Event. Those attending were by family were Hannah, Alyssa, Emily, Alexis, Sara and Nathanael Brandt; Sara, Kaitlyn, Kim, and David Johnson; Jim Hartwig, Dylan and Lauren White, DCE Intern.

They had volunteered to rake leaves. For two hours they worked as a team and finished the job, fulfilling the Bible's directive to "Love one another" Lunch was served and then they joined the Arp's for a Devotion by Marjorie Arp and prayer by Dr. Arp.

Faith, Waterloo



The Life Team from Faith Lutheran Church in Waterloo was installed on September 28, 2018.

Trinity, Vinton



Children from the Sunday school of Trinity Lutheran Church in Vinton sing at worship on December 16.

St. Peter, Elma

St. Peter Lutheran Church in Elma was blessed to have one of their first children's nativity in many years this past Christmas Eve. The children sang *Away in a Manger* and *Go Tell It On The Mountain*.

St. Paul. Mt. Vernon



St. Paul Lutheran Church presented a living nativity on Nov. 29 during Mt. Vernon's Magical Night. This is the 25th year that St. Paul has been sharing the Christmas story in this way.



St. Stephen, Atkins

Adult Confirmation at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, Atkins, Iowa on December 23, 2018

From Left to Right: Tammy Wecker, Stacy Wolf, Weston Bishop, Nick Hach, Laura Schroder, Darlene Parr, Kami Happel and Pastor Doug Woltemath



Trinity, Clinton

A small piece of eastern Iowa has found its way to the Dominican Republic. Pastor David Preus is a missionary to the Dominican Republic who also serves as a professor at the seminary there. His brother John was the pastor at Trinity in Clinton. It came to the attention of members of Trinity that there were no banners at the mission church. The Sunday School at Trinity had previously voiced a desire to help make banners. After consulting with Pastor David, he requested that a baptismal banner be made. The Wednesday Morning ladies of Trinity designed and cut out the pieces and the Sunday School assembled the banner with the words "Baptized in Christ" written in Spanish. The banner was presented to Pastor David at a reception on September 30th after his presentation. Not only will this banner adorn the mission church but will serve as a template for future banners to be made by members of the Dominican church.



St. Paul Chapel, Iowa City

St. Paul's was excited to send 10 students and Pastor Mons to the 2019 National LCMS Campus Ministry Conference: "Witness" in Fort Wayne, IN, January 2-5, 2019. With 10 students came 10 different experiences. The students wrote about their experiences at the conference. Here are a few excerpts from them.



Worship at the LCMS U Conference

The annual Theologian in Residence was held March 1st – 3rd. This year's theologian was actually an astrophysicist. Dr. Paul P. Edmon, of Harvard University, discussed the relationship of faith and science. Concerning his presentation, Dr. Edmon notes: "In the modern world the discipline of science and the Christian faith seem to be at odds with each other constantly. However, this need not be the case. Instead a proper ministerial use of reason can produce a proper reading of God's Two Books, the Book of Nature and the Holy Bible. We will take a look at the history, philosophy, theology, and vocation of science and discuss how using our reason in service to faith can illumine both Books to the glory of God."

The annual VARIETY! was held at the end of March with a record crowd in attendance. Permanent congregation members and students shared their amazing talent in the show, from funny skits, to dance to musical performances. God has truly blessed our membership with amazing talent. This is an annual fundraiser for LCMSU conference expenses.



Traveling to Ft. Wayne for the LCMS U Conference



Dr. Paul Edmon arriving for Theologian in Residence

A group of students are in the midst of planning a mission trip to Ethiopia in May of 2020. This trip is for both students and permanent congregation members. The students are working hard at concession stands at various locations. They have planned fundraisers for each month of the school year until the trip as well as an auction this summer at one of the student's home churches.



Performers for the VARIETY! LCMS U Fundraiser

Marshalltown LWML Zone Rally

62 women, pastors and guests gathered at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Marshalltown on April 6th to attend the Marshalltown Zone LWML Spring Rally under the theme "Teach Me Your Way." Jan Doellinger, the IED Assistant to the President - Schools was our guest speaker. She spoke on the history and importance of Lutheran Schools here in the Iowa East District. A Bible study on Women Disciples in the Bible was also presented by Pastor Alex Post. A business meeting, skits, and fellowship rounded out the day's activities.

The picture is of Marjorie Wengert and Zone President Pam Haase. Marjorie turned 100 years on April 10. She was in one of the skits and is still very active in Redeemer, Marshalltown's LWML.



LCEF -



Rachel Eckert, daughter of Rev. Timothy and Susan Eckert, received the 2018 Iowa District East Lutheran Church Extension Fund \$1,000 Scholarship at her home congregation on December 16, 2018. Carole White, LCEF District Vice President - Iowa East and West, presented the award at Trinity Lutheran Church in Davenport, Iowa.

Rachel attends Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa, majoring in engineering. She plans to design and develop new, economically feasible products that will make a positive impact on people's lives.

The Iowa District East district office is seeking a qualified individual to fill the position of Communications / Events / Technology Coordinator. View the job description here and contact Sherry Brendes at 319-373-2112 with any questions. Please submit your resume and cover letter to: Sherry Brendes, Iowa District East-LCMS, 1100 Blairs Ferry Road, Marion, IA 52302, or via e-mail to sherry@lcmside.org.

Position Opening



Communications,
Events,
and
Technology
Coordinator



District Representatives

District President	Rev. Dr. Brian S. Saunders
Asst. to the President	Rev. Dr. Dean F. Rothchild
Business/Office Manager	Sherry Brendes
Admin. Asst./Receptionist	Pam Krog
1st Vice President	Rev. W. Max Mons, S.T.M.
2nd Vice President	Rev. Dr. Matthew Rueger
Secretary	Rev. Mark Brase
Treasurer	Corey Nuehring
Asst. to the Pres.– Schools	Mrs. Jan Doellinger
IDE Archivist	Rev. Allen Konrad (archives@lcmside.org)
U of I Hospital Chaplain	Rev. Michael Musick (ideuchaplain@live.com)

IOWA DISTRICT EAST - LCMS

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